

3.8 Infrastructure and Service Systems

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Regional Setting

The Central Modoc region is a rural area that is served by local or private services and utilities. Existing utilities and service systems for Canby include electricity, communication systems, and solid waste disposal. Surprise Valley Electrification Corporation provides electricity and solid waste is transported to the Canby Transfer Station by the Modoc County Department of Public Works. Citizens Communications provides telephone service.

Local Setting

Gas and Electricity. Surprise Valley Electrification Corporation provides electricity for the town of Canby; however the individual landowners use private propane tanks for the provision of natural gas.

Water. The I'SOT Community in Canby and surrounding residents obtain potable water through private wells.

Wastewater. The I'SOT community has two 3.5-acre sewage lagoon treatment ponds that are both aerobic/anaerobic in nature. These ponds were installed by I'SOT Inc. in 1983. Sewage is sent to these ponds via pipelines. The ponds have both primary and secondary treatment. Primary treatment involves removing most inorganic matter through allowing solids to settle out of the raw sewage. In secondary treatment, bacteria digest the organic material (Merrick 2002a).

Stormwater. There is currently no storm water collection system at the I'SOT community.

Solid Waste. Solid waste from I'SOT goes to the Canby Transfer Station. There are 5 landfills and 7 transfer stations in Modoc County. These facilities are under a cooperative agreement to serve residents of Modoc County. In 1988, the Department of Public Works estimated the capacity of these landfills to be adequate for the following 20 years. The County Department of Public Works operates Class II sanitary landfills at each of the following communities: Fort Bidwell, Lake City, Cedarville, Eagleville and Alturas. The landfills are open to the public, free of charge (Alvord 2002).

Communications. Telephone service is provided by Citizen Communications.

Schools. Canby is served by the Modoc Joint Unified School District. There are five elementary and junior high schools, and two high schools in the District. Three of the above seven schools are in outlying areas. I'SOT operates its own school on site. Students from outside the I'SOT community may also attend (Alvord 2002).

Health Services. Two major medical facilities serve the County. The Modoc Medical Center hospital in Alturas is a completely modern 28-bed facility, providing physicians for 24-hour emergency care. The Surprise Valley Hospital and Clinic in Cedarville has an 18-bed hospital.

Emergency Services

Fire Protection. Throughout the County, 12 fire districts provide fire protection within Modoc County. The Alturas Rural Fire Department covers the largest fire district in Modoc County. The Canby Fire Department serves the I'SOT community.

Police Protection. In Modoc County, the CHP, the Modoc County Sheriff's Department, and the City of Alturas Police Department provide police protection services. The Modoc County Sheriff's Department provides police services throughout the entire county. Police protection in the central Modoc area consists of five officers and a sheriff patrol.

REGULATORY SETTING

Other than general requirements for provision of utility services, there are few regulatory requirements applicable to this project. Project discharge water quality requirements are applied through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process involving the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Specific building code requirements of Modoc County are applied to on-site provisions for new developments. I'SOT has applied for and received an NPDES permit for discharge of the geothermal effluent to the Pit River (see Sections 3.3 and 4.3, Hydrology and Geothermal Resources). I'SOT has also received a Use Permit for development of the district heating system. All new buildings would comply with the zoning ordinance requirements for the Modoc County zoning designation.